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Fall 2006

Book Review of *A Dictionary of Common Wildflowers of Texas and the Southern Great Plains* by Joel E. Holloway

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Diggs, Jr., George M., "Book Review of *A Dictionary of Common Wildflowers of Texas and the Southern Great Plains* by Joel E. Holloway" (2006). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 857.

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A Dictionary of Common Wildflowers of Texas and the Southern Great Plains. By Joel E. Holloway. Edited by Amanda Neill. Fort Worth: TCU Press, 2005. 178 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index of common names. \$29.95 paper.

The entries in this wildflower dictionary of the names of plants of Texas and the Southern Plains are arranged in alphabetical order according to scientific name. An index of common names allows one to find a plant's entry easily if only the common name is known. Derivations of scientific names, including both generic names and specific epithets, are provided. Typically the scientific binomial is translated from its Latinized form, the original language(s) of the root words is given, and the derivation is explained. Likewise, there are explanations for the origins of common names. Here is a typical entry:

Engelmannia peristenia

Engelmann Daisy

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Engelmannia*, for George Engelmann (1809-1884), a German-born American physician and botanist + (plus) *peristenia*, extra bands, from Greek, περισσο, *perisso*, over and above and τενια, *tenia*, band, ribbon, for the featherlike leaves.

COMMON NAME: Engelmann, same as genus name. Daisy, from Anglo-Saxon, *daeges-eage*, day's eye, daisy, for the eyelike appearance and the opening of the rays in the morning.

A few illustrations are included, but, given the limited number, their main usefulness is in breaking up what would otherwise be continuous text entries. According to its introduction, the volume is "intended to function chiefly as a companion resource to the field guides of common flowers of Texas and the southern Great Plains." Indeed, this seems to be the book's most important use, not as text to be read. The name derivations and explanations seem carefully done and will be a source of satisfaction to those wishing to understand the origins of plant names. The most important drawback is that a relatively small percentage of the region's plants are treated. Texas has roughly 5,000 vascular plant species, and the Great Plains has slightly more than 3,000 taxa; the approximately 1,100 plants covered are thus a relatively small part of the flora. Nonetheless, for individuals interested in understanding the origins of plant names, this dictionary will be an easily accessible and worthwhile source. **George M. Diggs, Jr.**, *Department of Biology, Austin College.*